



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

2418 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
8425 WEST 3rd STREET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90048

202-225-3976  
213-651-1040

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
March 15, 1982

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
Jack Ebeler (202)225-4952

### WAXMAN PROTESTS ANTI-UNION MEDICARE

### POLICY REVERSAL OF REAGAN ADMINISTRATION

Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.) is vigorously protesting a new Reagan Administration policy that would allow Medicare to pay for the anti-union activities of hospitals which attempt to persuade employees not to join a union.

Waxman noted that "Prior to this ill-conceived change, Medicare would not pay for costs incurred by hospitals trying to persuade employees not to form or join a union. That policy was clearly and publicly articulated at least three times -- in a June, 1979 statement in Medicare's Provider Reimbursement Manual, in an October 21, 1980 notice in the Federal Register, and again in a January 16, 1981 final notice in the Federal Register."

"The Administration has now arbitrarily reversed that policy." In a letter of protest to Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker, Congressman Waxman said that "As a result of that reversal, our limited public funds under Medicare will be spent to finance anti-union activities. That policy and use of public funds is totally unacceptable. We urgently request that you reconsider and overturn this policy as soon as possible."

Congressman Waxman, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, was joined on the letter by Congressmen John Dingell, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Charles Rangel, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and Andy Jacobs, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Ways and Means.